

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

25 April 1974

Mr. Edwin A. Thompson
Director, Records Declassification Division
National Archives and Records Service
Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Alan:

This is to advise you that on 17 April 1974 the Director of Central Intelligence approved an amendment to "Guidelines for Declassification of Office of Strategic Services Records," transmitted to the Archivist of the United States by DCI letter of 16 May 1973. Paragraph 1, under the heading Detailed Guidance: Named or Identifiable Individuals (pp. 1-2), is affected by the change. Specifically, the Director of Central Intelligence has determined that the identities of OSS non-agent personnel need no longer be protected beyond 30 years merely on the basis of subsequent service with the Central Intelligence Agency, the Central Intelligence Group, or the Strategic Services Unit.

The document authorizing this change is on file in this office. It is not planned to issue a revised version of the "Guidelines" document. This may be done at some future date, however.

It would be appreciated if you would notify Dr. Rhoads of this action. A copy of this letter is enclosed for Mr.

Sincerely,

JSI

ARCHIVIST

STATINTL

cc:

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Restrictions - Record Group No. 59

GENERAL RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The use of accessioned records in this record group is subject to "General Restrictions on the Use of Records in the National Archives" to the extent that any of these records are of the character described therein.

Restrictions that are specifically applicable to this record group are as follows:

- I. Records: All records dated later than December 31, 1941, except Presidential nominations, copies of commissions, oaths of office, and related papers concerning appointment to the Federal Service; and Senate confirmations and rejections of appointments.

Records of the following classes that are less than 50 years old: records that relate to unsettled claims in which the United States or its citizens have a financial interest; Foreign Service inspection reports; applications and recommendations for appointment to public office or for transfer from one post or position to another; records that relate to the efficiency, security, financial affairs, medical history, personal property, or private affairs of employees, former employees, or prospective employees of the U.S. Government; trade secrets and commercial or financial information received by the U.S. Government as privileged or confidential; and classified records originated by other Federal agencies, foreign governments, or international organizations, except insofar as such records are open under the regulations or practice of the originating agency, government, or organization.

Records of the following classes that are less than 75 years old: records concerning passports and related citizenship matters; intelligence and counterintelligence documents and reports; records of the investigation of persons or groups of persons by investigative authorities of the United States or foreign Governments; name files relating to the issuance or refusal of visas; and other records the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or a breach of confidence placed in the U.S. Government.

Restrictions: These records may be used by official and nonofficial researchers only with the permission of the Department of State.

Specified by: The Department of State.

Rev. 8, September 28, 1970.

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE DECLASSIFICATION CIA AND PREDECESSOR
AGENCY DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION ORIGINATED BETWEEN 1946-1950

I. The Director of Central Intelligence exercises exclusive or final declassification authority over all documents and information originated by or clearly attributable to the Central Intelligence Agency and its postwar predecessors, the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) of the War Department (1945-1946) and the Central Intelligence Group (CIG, 1946-1947). In addition, the CIA has a subject matter interest in documents and information originated by or attributable to other agencies which relate to the personnel, organization, functions, and responsibilities of the CIA and to similar documents and information of intra-agency bodies with which the CIA was associated, such as the National Intelligence Authority (NIA), Intelligence Advisory Board (IAB), and the National Security Council (NSC).

II. In accordance with Section 5 of Executive Order 11652, the Central Intelligence Agency delegates the following declassification authority to selected staff members of the Records Declassification Division (NND) of NARS, after suitable briefing by CIA personnel. This authority may not be redelegated to any other component, either custodial or administrative, of NARS.

III. All classified documents and information originated by or clearly attributable to the Central Intelligence Agency, its predecessors, and intra-agency bodies on which the CIA

was represented, and over which the CIA has exclusive or final declassification authority, may be declassified, if dated between 1 January 1946 and 30 June 1950, unless they contain the following types of information:

(1) documents and information received from a foreign intelligence service through liaison channels, whether that liaison source is stated or inferred;

(2) information which discloses the identity (by name, title or function) of any personnel, including agents and liaison officers, of foreign intelligence or security services, irrespective of whether they represent friendly or unfriendly countries;

(3) information concerning communications intelligence (COMINT), electronic intelligence (ELINT), and related matters;

(4) information which names or otherwise identifies any sensitive CIA human or technical source, either actual or planned;

(5) information originated by or clearly attributable to a "controlled American source," a "responsible American agency," a "confidential source within the government," or any other term denoting the CIA or its predecessors;

(6) information which reveals the non-official cover (NOC) of personnel employed by the CIA and its predecessors or the nature of the NOC arrangement;

(7) information revealing arrangements for the placing and supporting of personnel of the CIA and its predecessors under official cover;

(8) information revealing the connection of CIA or predecessor agency personnel with other agencies of the United States Government, intra-agency boards and committees outside the intelligence community, and with non-governmental organizations;

(9) information revealing any aspect of agent spotting, recruitment, development, handling or support, the assignment of tasks, the levying of requirements, and the agent's manner of response and means of reporting or contact;

(10) information disclosing the manner and degree of support (including financial and administrative) given by the CIA and its predecessors to foreign governments, organizations, and movements, and the means used to obtain and transmit such support;

(11) information disclosing the design and operating characteristics of special equipment and devices used or developed by the CIA and its predecessors to support operations in the field;

(12) information revealing the internal organizational development of the CIG and CIA;

(13) information revealing the appropriation and budgeting of funds for the CIA and its predecessors, especially the practice by which confidential funds are secretly placed

(14) documents and information pertaining to the letting of contracts by the CIA to private businesses, commercial enterprises, or non-governmental institutions;

(15) documents and information pertaining to the personnel, organization, responsibilities, and functions of the CIA and its predecessors which were originated by or clearly attributable to inter-governmental multi-agency organizations upon which the CIA or its predecessors were represented and/or to which they reported;

(16) information which could have an adverse current impact on the conduct of present and future U. S. foreign relations;

(17) information which could place an individual in physical or legal jeopardy;

(18) letters and memoranda originated by, attributable to, or concerning the CIA and its predecessors, other than routine transmittal correspondence and acknowledgments.

IV. All documents and information exempted from declassification by NARS personnel by any of the provisions cited above will be reviewed by CIA officers. No downgrading to Secret or Confidential is authorized by these guidelines. Any declassification guidelines and instructions issued by other agencies of the United States Government are to be applied to information originated by or clearly attributable to those agencies which appears in CIA-originated documents.